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Economic and Social Council

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United Nations Forum on Forests
Organizational session
12 February 2001
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers and determination of the duration of their terms of office.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Consideration of all proposals and options on the location of the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests.
4. Progress towards the establishment of the collaborative partnership on forests.
5. Other matters.
6. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its organizational session.

Annotations

1. Election of officers and determination of the duration of their terms of office

Rule 23 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council (see E/5975/Rev.1) provides that its subsidiary organs shall elect their own officers.

In accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure, the United Nations Forum on Forests shall elect, at the commencement of its first session, from among the representatives of its members, such officers as may be required.

In paragraph 4 (d) of its resolution 2000/35, the Economic and Social Council decided that the Bureau of the Forum would consist of one Chairperson and four Vice-Chairpersons, one of whom would also act as the Rapporteur, in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical distribution. In paragraph 7 (a) of the same resolution, the Council decided that, in addition to electing its officers, the Forum would also determine the duration of their terms of office.

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2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

In accordance with rule 7 of the rules of procedure, the Forum shall, at the beginning of the session, after the election of its officers, adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

3. Consideration of all proposals and options on the location of the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests

In its paragraph 10 of resolution 2000/35, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to establish a compact secretariat, comprised of highly qualified staff, constituted in accordance with established rules and procedures of the United Nations and strengthened through staff from secretariats of international and regional organizations, institutions and instruments, to support the work of the Forum.

In paragraph 11 of the same resolution, the Council further decided, bearing in mind paragraph 10 of that resolution and unless otherwise decided intergovernmentally, that the secretariat would preferably be located at United Nations Headquarters in New York, and that a recommendation for a final decision on the matter should be made at the organizational session of the Forum, taking into consideration all proposals.

In addition, at its resumed substantive session of 2000 the Council received the following offers to host the Forum secretariat: the Government of Costa Rica offered to host it in San José; the Government of Switzerland to host it in Geneva and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to host it in Rome.

Documentation

Original written submissions presented by the Governments of Costa Rica and Switzerland and by FAO at the resumed substantive session of 2000 of the Economic and Social Council.

4. Progress towards the establishment of the collaborative partnership on forests

In paragraph 3 (b) of its resolution 2000/35, the Economic and Social Council decided, in order to achieve the objective and carry out the functions outlined in paragraphs 1 and 2 of that resolution, to invite the executive heads of relevant organizations of the United Nations system and heads of other relevant international and regional organizations, institutions and instruments to form a collaborative partnership on forests to support the work of the Forum and to enhance cooperation and coordination among participants, and to call upon their governing bodies and their heads to support the activities of the collaborative partnership on forests to achieve the goals of the Forum.

In paragraph 8 of the same resolution, the Council recommended that the collaborative partnership on forests build on a high-level, informal group, such as

the Inter-Agency Task Force on Forests,[1] which would receive guidance from the Forum; facilitate and promote coordinated and cooperative action, including joint programming and submissions of coordinated proposals to their respective governing bodies; and facilitate donor coordination. The Council also recommended that the partnership submit coordinated inputs and progress reports to the Forum, operate in an open, transparent and flexible manner, and undertake periodic reviews of its effectiveness.

Documentation

Oral presentation by the Inter-Agency Task Force on Forests on progress towards the establishment of the collaborative partnership on forests.

5. Other matters

6. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its organizational session

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[1] At present, the Inter-Agency Task Force on Forests is composed of the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Center for International Forestry Research, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Tropical Timber Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Bank, and is chaired by FAO.